

# THUNDERBUMPER

*South Dakota*

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



VOLUME THIRTY EIGHT NUMBER 4

October - December 2011



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Adjutant General

**Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks**

Assistant Adjutant General for Air

**Col. Russ Walz**

Commander, 114th Fighter Wing

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### On the cover...



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. QUINTON YOUNG

Lt. Col. Gregory Young, 175 FS Assist. B Flight commander, took his final flight in the F-16 on December 3. Young was the first F-16 pilot commissioned with the unit in 1991. See

more on this story on Page 8 of this publication.

### On the back...



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRIS STEWART

Unit members, families, and friends gathered at Joe Foss Field, S.D. on November 5, 2011 for the second Hometown Heroes Salute. The Hometown Heroes Salute honors

military members, their families, and even employers who supported unit members while they completed their missions in operations exceeding 30 days in support of the war on terror since 9/11.

# A word from the commander

BY COL. RUSS A. WALZ



SDANG FILE PHOTO

Enduring Freedom and Operation New Horizons as well as helping the citizens of South Dakota in a time of great need.

We deployed 38 members in support of combat operations in 12 different countries providing highly trained Airmen to meet combatant commanders' objectives. Thirty-six additional members deployed to our partnership country of Suriname. The average tour length was 126 days. Overall, you represented this unit, state and nation with the utmost professionalism and I'd like to convey my thanks to you and your family for making a difference in this world.

We also had the opportunity to help our neighbors in the Dakota Dunes, Yankton and Pierre communities this summer. Five hundred and thirteen unit members were mobilized for State Active Duty, many with very little notice, to support historic flood operations throughout the state. The 24/7 operation of levee patrol,

The men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing should be extremely proud of what they accomplished this past year. The contributions and sacrifices extend to the far reaches of the globe supporting Operation

security checkpoints, quick reaction forces, and sandbagging operations for 99 days certainly led to the protection of property and saved lives.

Within days of finishing state flood operations, we spent the next two Unit Training Assemblies executing major Operational Readiness Exercises. At the first we generated F-16's, processed cargo and hundreds of personnel; the next we were flying wartime Air Tasking Order sortie production in an intense chemical warfare environment. This was accomplished with hard work and great attitudes which will help with our preparation for the Operational Readiness Inspection in two years.

The conversion to Block 40 F-16s created an enormous workload this last year for our maintenance and logistics professionals. Getting this fleet of 22 aircraft to "Lobo" standards took a thorough, detailed effort that you can be extremely proud of. It is a culture of excellence like this throughout the Wing that certainly led to the 114th Fighter Wing winning the William W. Spruance Safety Award, the highest safety award to any Air National Guard flying unit. Congratulations!

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued commitment to the Wing and wish you a blessed holiday.

## From the desk of the Wing command chief

BY COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. KEVIN UTHE



SDANG FILE PHOTO

November was a busy month at the 114th Fighter Wing. It started with interviews for this year's Outstanding Airmen of the Year. There were four different boards interviewing the 25 candidates. As a result there were five Airmen selected whose packages will be forwarded to the National Guard Bureau for national competition. The selectees are pictured on pages 6 and 7 of this publication. Congratulations to these Airmen.

I would also like to say congratulations to all of the members who were interviewed in these categories. Thanks, also, to the supervisors who took the time to nominate, write and submit the packages for their Airmen. And last, but not least, thanks to the members who took time out of their busy weekend to conduct the interviews.

Later Saturday afternoon the unit held our second Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony.

The Adjutant General, Major General Tim Reisch, was there to pass on his appreciation to the members, families and guests of the South Dakota Air National Guard.

Current, as well as retired, members of the unit received their Hometown Heroes awards and were congratulated by Wing Commander, Col. Russ Walz; Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks; and General Reisch. These awards were given to members who served in support of the war on terror since 9-11. We still have a list of retirees who have not picked up their awards to this point. We would ask that those members who served in a contingency operation since 9-11 stop and pick them up at Headquarters, located in Hangar 40. If you have a question regarding who is due an award, please contact me at 988-5495 and I can help you determine who has awards to pick up.

As December rolls in and 2011 comes to an end, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Holidays and good luck in the coming New Year.

**THUNDERBOMBER**



# What does an assistant to a four-star general do?

BY MASTER. SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

What does a one-star General working for the Air Force Materiel Command do?

When Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks asked this question his first day at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio after being appointed as the Air National Guard Assistant to the AFMC Commander, he was jokingly given this advice.

"The one-stars around here bring coffee to the two, three, and four stars and you have assigned seating; so sit in your assigned chair, keep your mouth shut unless you're asked to talk and if you are asked to talk, be careful what you say," repeated General Shanks.

Anyone who knows General Shanks knows that staying put in one place and keeping his mouth shut is not within his character so his intent is to change things up a bit while serving in his new position.

Working in the largest command of the Air Force encompasses a vast array of duties. General Shanks attempted to give members of the Dacotah Chapter of the Air Force Association a brief outline during a luncheon held at Joe Foss Field on December 1.

Appointed by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the selected generals are appointed for three year terms and are dual assigned. All assistants hold a military position in the state which they are from as well as their positions at AFMC. General Shanks is our states' current Assistant Adjutant General for Air and is the first from the state of South Dakota to be appointed to an assistant position.

Being dual tasked, General Shanks has several offices as well as several bosses and this keeps him traveling for up to two-and-a-half weeks per month.

The mission of AFMC is to research, develop, test, evaluate, and provide acquisition management services and logistics support necessary to keep Air Force weapon systems ready for war. Everything from the most complex fighter aircraft to the uniforms we wear are developed and sustained by AFMC.

General Shanks fits in this mission by bringing the Air National Guard perspective and insight to AFMC. He is an integral part of ensuring that the concerns and viewpoints of

the Air National Guard are heard and become a part of the decision-making at AFMC.

Over the past year, AFMC has been undergoing a reorganization that will streamline the command. The Guard wants to play a key role in this reorganized

command and with General Shanks serving two more years

in his position as assistant, he intends to ensure that is done.

## Vision of AFMC

*"War-winning capabilities -- on time, on cost."*

General Shanks went on to tell the attendees at the AFA luncheon the "good news" stories of success and his

hopes for the future during his tenure with AFMC.



SDANG FILE PHOTO



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks, Air National Guard assistant to the AFMC commander, gives a briefing on AFMC and his duties during the Air Force Association luncheon held at Joe Foss Field, S.D. Dec. 1.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRIG. GEN. WAYNE SHANKS

Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks (center) poses by the F35 aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base test center with members of his staff and test pilots of the F35. The newest fighter aircraft in the Air Force fleet, the South Dakota Air National Guard would love to see them on our ramp some day.

# Does *Stress* have you *Frazzled*?

BY LT. COL. RUTH A. SIEM, PA-C



Each day life brings about stresses, even more with the holidays upon us. We all cope with stress in different ways and quite often can feel the tension in our back and head, but many effects of stress on our bodies slip by unnoticed. Even though these less visible effects of stress aren't as apparent as the headache or tight neck we feel they are just as important.

When the body faces a stressful event the central nervous system let's the hypothalamus at the base of the brain know. Then the pituitary releases a hormone called ACTH. Within two seconds, adrenalin and noradrenalin are released. During this time, there are seventeen other hormones released to help your body through this event. Adrenalin rapidly prepares the body with a quick source of energy. It will make your heart pound and you will feel hot. Your liver, which has stored sugar, will release this fuel for quick energy. The red blood cells enter your blood stream allowing more oxygen to be carried to the brain and limbs. Even if you have eaten a big meal, digestion stops, allowing blood to be diverted to the brain and muscles. The bowels and bladder can be affected as well. They may tighten up,

obstructing normal bodily functions or the bowels may release uncontrollably. While under chronic stress your immune system functions below its normal level. That is why the more stress you are under the more likely you are to suffer from a serious illness. Stress over a long period of time can affect your health by contributing to ulcers, allergies, high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke.

Sources of stress come from every corner of our lives. Most common sources found are from our jobs, personal life and our environment. Meeting deadlines at work, conflicts with boss or co-workers can all create harmful stress. Death of a loved one, divorce, sickness, financial problems, even happy events such as marriage or birth of a child can add up the pressure on our lives. Our environment including the weather, the noise around us, over crowding, and physical safety and comfort can all affect our ability to cope and relax.

Some steps to reduce the stress in your life include:

1. Exercise
  - It relieves physical and mental tension.
  - It releases endorphins, a chemical released in our brain, which leads to natural relaxation.
  - Pick an activity you enjoy and try to exercise 3-5 times a week for 20-60 minutes.
2. Deep Breathing----It is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress.



- Clear your mind and relax your arms and shoulders.
  - Slowly exhale through your nose.
  - Then take a deep breath, letting your chest and abdomen fill with air.
  - Slowly exhale and repeat until your breathing is steady and regular.
  - Feel relaxed and in control.
3. Take a break.
  4. Manage your time wisely.
  5. Hobbies---Do something you really enjoy for at least a half hour a day it can lessen fatigue and refresh your mind and body.
  6. Get enough sleep.
  7. Work out anger.
  8. Talk out worries with a friend.
  9. Don't accept substitutes---this means moderate or eliminate intake of alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and other drugs.
  10. Eat right.
    - Cut down on sugar, sodium and fatty foods.
    - Eat more fruits, veggies, and whole grain foods.

In conclusion, stress is a part of every day life. Learn to control stress by identifying stressors, then take steps to reduce the causes of harmful stress. Finally, find a stress reduction technique you enjoy and stick with it to help you have more success and satisfaction in your day and therefore contribute to your overall health.

## Merry Christmas 114th



The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Holiday Express rolled through Sioux Falls, S.D. on December 7 and hundreds of members of the 114th Fighter Wing and their families had a chance to ride. The vintage decorated rail car traveled from the Sioux Falls depot to Crooks and back for an hour-and-a-half ride. BNSF does the Holiday Express to say "Thank you" to military members and their families.



The 114th Fighter Wing Candy Land Kid's Christmas Party was held at Joe Foss Field, S.D. on December 4.

Over 140 children enjoyed the activities including Danika Deuter (right), age 5. Danika is the daughter of Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Deuter, 114th Medical Group. Like Danika, the children enjoyed activities that included the building of gingerbread houses, candy land inspired games, pictures with Santa and plenty of yummy sweets. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event such a success.





# 2011 Diamond Sharp award winners

BY MASTER SGT. NANCY J. AUSLAND

PHOTOS BY 114 FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

The 114th Fighter Wing has no shortage of outstanding Airmen. One way the unit recognizes these members is through the First Sergeant Diamond Sharp award.

Each First Sergeant selects one person per year to receive this award and there is no limit to the number of times a person can receive the award.

The award is to recognize members

that provide knowledge, expertise, and understanding in their work center which effectively set a positive and professional work or training environment. This in turn adds to the federal mission and also helps to set the standards in the Air National Guard community.

Awardees are listed below with the First Sergeant who recognized them.



*Senior Master Sgt. Randy Wingen awarded Senior Airman Naomi M. Mehnert for the 114th Fighter Wing.*



*Master Sgt. Kenneth Grunewaldt awarded Staff Sgt. Ross Wickman for the 114th Mission Support Group.*



*Master Sgt. Shawn Greer awarded Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Heibult for the 114th Logistics Readiness Squadron.*



*Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Vanderwoude awarded Tech. Sgt. Michael Witte for the 114th Maintenance Squadron.*



*Master Sgt. Timothy Stark awarded Master Sgt. Brandi Kuhle for the 114th Medical Group.*



*Senior Master Sgt. Scott Leebens awarded Airman 1st Class Justin Murphy for the 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.*



*Master Sgt. Chad Oxender awarded Master Sgt. Debra Tunge for the 114th Security Forces Squadron.*



*Master Sgt. Michael Clauson awarded Master Sgt. Daniel McNeil for the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron.*



*Senior  
NCO  
of the  
Year*



*Master Sgt. Adam J. Punt  
114th Comptroller Flight*



*NCO  
of the  
Year*

*Technical Sgt. Scott A. Richardson  
114th Maintenance Squadron*

*2011 O-  
Airmen*

*Airman  
of the Year*



*Staff Sgt. Brittnie B. Bu  
114th Force Support Squadron*



**Outstanding  
Member of the Year**



***First Sgt.  
of the  
Year***



***Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Grunewaldt  
114th Mission Support Group***



***inkers  
 Squadron***



***Honor Guard  
Member  
of the Year***



***Master Sgt. Lisa G. Eisenhauer  
114th Maintenance Group***

# Hometown Heroes Salute held

BY STAFF SGT. TRISHA SMEENK

Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing and their families were honored at the second Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony held at Joe Foss Field on November 5. The awards are for their contributions to the mission of the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. The Airmen recognized at the ceremony included those who have deployed for more than 30 consecutive days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations since 9/11.

Staff Sgt. Katie McGuire, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron, was one of the many Airmen receiving an award.

Sergeant McGuire joined the Air National Guard in her senior year of high school. She has been serving for over nine years and said it was the one of the best decisions of her life.

"The South Dakota Air National Guard is like another family to me. I like the aspect of knowing the people I deploy with. It's a great feeling to have such a great group of people out here and I am proud to serve with them."

McGuire said it was an honor to receive a Hometown Hero Salute. She credits her family

as the real heroes.

"You don't have to be in the Guard to be a hometown hero. My family took care of everything back home while I was gone. It was a big deal for me to have so much support," said McGuire.

McGuire's mom says the day her daughter enlisted was especially memorable for her.

"Katie signed the papers on my husband's and my anniversary. I'm glad she is getting recognized today. Katie is a hero. I've always teased her that in her short life she has traveled more miles than I have," said Helen McGuire.

Each Airman received a cherrywood encased letter of appreciation signed by former Air Guard director, Gen. Craig. R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the Air Guard's Command Chief Master Sgt.,

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, enclosed with commemorative coins. Depending on their length of service they may have also received an encased American flag with commemorative coins.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. QUINTON YOUNG

*Staff Sgt. Katie McGuire is pictured with her mother, Helen McGuire, and her twin brother, Tom McGuire, with her Hometown Heroes Salute awards.*

## 175th Fighter Squadron's first F-16 pilot takes final flight

BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

As if it wasn't enough to be number one in his graduating Undergraduate Pilot Training class, Lt. Col. Gregory S. Young also has the distinction of being the first F-16 pilot in the South Dakota Air National Guard.

Young's distinguished career with the unit will come to an end on December 31 when he retires with over 22 years of military service.

His first flight in an F-16 was in September 1991 and he returned to the unit to fly for the South Dakota Air National Guard in February 1992.

On December 3, 2011 Lt. Col. Young took his final flight in the F-16 and was flight lead for a team of pilots who have distinguished themselves by each having flown over 2,600 hours in the F-16.

As flight lead, Lt. Col. Young has 2,648.8 hours, wing #2, Lt. Col. Gregory Lair has 2,674 hours, wing #3, Lt. Col. Eric Knutson has 2,685.3 hours, and wing #4, Lt. Col. Clark Hunstad has 2,646.5 hours. This four ship F-16 flight on December 3rd had the experience of 10, 654.6 flying hours to make it a success!

Congratulations Lt. Col. Young and good luck in your retirement.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRISTOPHER STEWART

*The four ship flight team for Lt. Col. Gregory Young's final flight included from left to right, Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, 114th Fighter Wing Safety Officer, Lt. Col. Gregory Lair, 114th Operations Support Flight commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Young, 175th Fighter Squadron Assistant B Flight commander, and Lt. Col. Clark Hunstad, 175th Fighter Squadron Safety pilot.*



# The end of an era

BY MASTER SGT. NANCY J. AUSLAND

For most members of the 114th Fighter Wing the Vietnam War was one that we heard stories about or saw movies depicting, but for two members of the South Dakota Air National Guard, it was an experience.

Senior Master Sgt. James M. Kelley, 114th Maintenance Group aircraft mechanic supervisor and Tech. Sgt. Sidney A. Robbins, 114th Security Forces Squadron flight sergeant, will be the last Vietnam Veterans in our unit to retire.

The Vietnam conflict spanned almost twenty years between November 1955 and April 1975 with the United States involvement ending in August 1973. Both Senior Master Sgt. Kelley and Tech. Sgt. Robbins were there for the end.

Sergeant Kelley began his long military career by joining the Navy in March of 1971.

"I made three Western Pacific cruises aboard the USS Constellation with my squadron" said Sgt. Kelley. "The first was December 1971 to July 1972. In 1973 and 1974 I went back out for six or seven months at a time again. I worked on the flight deck as an airframe troubleshooter doing quick fixes, prelaunch checks, inspections, and routine maintenance."

The flight deck of a Navy supercarrier is a high pressure and fast paced place to work. In 1971, the carrier Sgt. Kelley was on departed San Diego for what would become a historic combat deployment. Air operations commenced with strikes against mainly logistic targets in Laos as well as reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam into 1972.

When asked if he had any wisdom to share from his Vietnam experiences, Sgt. Kelley had this to say;

"When I initially started to work the roof, there were times that I questioned my judgment and would verify some of my decisions with my shop supervisor. His name was Joe Latshaw and one of the best supervisors I have ever worked for."

One day he said, "I put you on the roof because I have confidence in your ability. Make a decision, stand by it and if it's wrong we'll deal with it later."

"I have never forgotten his pep talk and that is how I've tried to work as a mechanic and a supervisor for the rest of my career. I guess the message is the same for all the upcoming

Airmen. Take pride in your work, do the best job you are capable of doing, make a decision and stand by it."

This is great advice from a man who served over 31 years in the military and has seen war from both a ship and on the ground. On November 21, 2011, Sgt. Kelley turned 60 years old and therefore he retired on November 20. He retired without a day to spare for this dedicated Airman.

Not to be outdone, Tech. Sgt. Sidney Robbins plans to stay a member of the unit until his last day as well and will retire the day before his 60th birthday on February 7, 2012.

As did Sgt. Kelley, Sgt. Robbins

Police Specialist and it wasn't long before he was off to war.

In April of 1972, the beginning of the Easter Offensive, Sgt. Robbins found himself at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam where the base was recorded as having 396 rocket hits in his four months there. After that first four months at Da Nang, he was moved to a secret outpost in the mountains of Vietnam.

"When I was transferred into the mountain zone I had more seniority than the other Security Policemen so I found myself as the senior member of our squad at the age of 21" said Sgt. Robbins. "I had less than two years in the military and then I was in charge. The hardest part was getting them to stay calm and to do so myself."

Sgt. Robbins served just 11 months in Vietnam but it was a time he will not forget. After being discharged from the Air Force in 1975, Sgt. Robbins took a break from military service until enlisting in the Army National Guard in 1978. He has been with the 114th Security Forces Squadron off and on since 1984. When he retires in February of 2012, Sgt. Robbins will have over 31 years of military service.

With the retirement of these two dedicated Airmen, the unit will see the end of an era. Though Vietnam happened before many of the members of this unit were born, the contributions of men such as Sgt. Kelley and Sgt. Robbins will not soon be forgotten.

Senior Master Sgt. James Kelley lives in Sioux Falls with his wife of 36 years, Betty. They have two daughters, Angela and Allison.

Tech. Sgt. Sidney Robbins lives in Hartford with his wife of 35 years, Diane. They have three children, Lance, Shawn and Michele.



^ Senior Master Sgt. Kim Kelley was the 114th Maintenance Group aircraft mechanic supervisor. Top photo is Seaman Kelley in his boot camp graduation photo in 1971.

made the decision to join the military on his own, without being drafted. He joined the Air Force in January of 1971 and became a Security



^ Tech. Sgt. Sidney Robbins, 114th Security Forces Squadron Flight Sergeant, and Lt. Col. Nate Alholinna, 175 Fighter Squadron commander, walk the ramp to their waiting aircraft on November 10. Sgt. Robbins was given a F-16 orientation flight just before ending his military career with over 35 years of service.



^ As a young Airman at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam, Robbins served as a Security Police Specialist.



# Firefighters go pink

STORY BY CHARLES E. KLUDT

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

The firefighters at Joe Foss Field, S.D. Crash-Fire-Rescue station and members of the International Association of Firefighters did their part during Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Members of the station purchased pink station wear shirts with the department logo



Firefighter Jacob Schroedermeier (left) and senior firefighter Charlie Kludt made a visit with a fire truck to the parking lot of the Hy-Vee grocery store on east 26th Street in Sioux Falls, S.D. October 14 to promote fire prevention week to the community.

and sold them to raise funds. Crash, Fire, Rescue members also purchased “pinks” for family members.

The money collected was then donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The members wore the “pinks” throughout the month of October which also happens to be Fire Prevention month.

The week of October 14th took the Joe Foss Field firefighters off base to share the message of fire prevention to the community. They took fire trucks and personnel to several Hy-Vee grocery store parking lots to interact with children and adults about fire prevention.

While at a public Fire Prevention promotions, the members wore their pink shirts while talking to people, putting on demonstrations, and collecting food for the local food pantry.

Susan G. Komen Foundation of South Dakota Executive Director Amanda Anderson accepted a check for \$600.00 from the members of Joe Foss Field station at a presentation at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, Air National Guard Crash Station.



Civilian firefighter Billy Munce passes out candy and stickers at the east 26th Street Hy-Vee on October 14 to promote Fire Prevention week. The firefighters had special pink t-shirts made to wear and also collected donations for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

## Chaplain's Corner

BY LT. COL. HARRISON LIPPERT

We were reminded this month of the impact one individual's existence has when Master Sgt. Dave Zervas' life ended suddenly during a routine trip to work. Even with the terrible disruption and pain from the death of one, life goes on. It is different than before. There are tears, but somehow we find a way to continue to function.

Such loss is inevitable. It is not always so drastic but it is always underway. Death comes to us all.

As Col. Joel DeGroot, 114th Maintenance Group commander, shared, “We are a vapor; like the mist of a winter breath, lingering for a moment before disappearing into the cold.”

Dave Zervas was a Christian. Christians hold to the hope that one individual existence had an impact on many. One tiny child entered into the cold and brought light and warmth. One man's death bore the sins of us all. His holy breath refused to disappear but has overcome the inevitable and still lingers to inspire life, even life beyond the grave.

His words still speak to troubled hearts, “Peace be with you.”







## Moving In

Staff Sgt. Angela L. Termeer, 114 FW  
 Airman Christine D. Houska, 114 SFS  
 Airman 1st Class Jorrie J.D. Hart, 114 STUF  
 Airman 1st Class Andrew J. Parrott, 114 STUF  
 Airman 1st Class Michael M. Vigants, 114 STUF  
 Airman 1st Class Zachary A. Hallstrom, 114 STUF  
 Airman 1st Class Paul D. Fiegen, 114 STUF  
 Airman 1st Class Bryce A. Haviland, 114 STUF

## Moving Up

### To Tech. Sgt.

Edward J. Johnson, 114 FSS  
 Brandie J. Schoellerman, 114 CES  
 Erin D. Swenson, 114 FSS  
 Clinton J. Turnbull, 175 FS  
 Bridget A. Vanliere, 114 FSS

### To Staff Sgt.

Brittanie B. Bunkers, 114 FSS  
 Tammy J. Fajardo, 114 AMXS  
 Courtney L. Francis, 114 FSS  
 Seth H. Horstman, 114 AMXS  
 Naomi M. Mehert, 114 CPTF  
 Maegan M. Nimick, 114 MXS  
 Jayme N. Shanks, 114 MDG

### To Senior Airman

Beau A. Bartscher, 114 AMXS  
 Garrett R. Chelgren, 114 AMXS  
 Scott V. Cmelik, 114 AMXS  
 Cassi M. Crittenden, 114 AMXS  
 Daniel D. Larson, 114 MXS  
 Casey L. Schoellerman, 114 AMXS  
 Cody M. Simonson, 114 MXS  
 Jesse D. Swier, 114 AMXS  
 Christopher A. Thacker, 114 AMXS  
 Jon J.N. Vandehoef, 114 MXS

### To Airman 1st Class

Rachael A. Bjerke, 114 MDG  
 Caleb B. Buysse, 114 MDG

## Moving On

Master Sgt. Michael Halverson, 114 CF, retired  
 October 24 with over 32 years of service.

Master Sgt. Markell Gnadt, 114 CES, retired  
 October 31 with over 23 years of service.

Master Sgt. Clarence Fjellanger, 114 CES,  
 retired October 31 with over 21 years of  
 service.

Senior Master Sgt. Kim Barnhart, 114 CF,  
 retired November 1 with over 37 years of  
 service.

Tech. Sgt. Richard Tilstra, 114 MXS, retired  
 November 1 with over 20 years of service.

Master Sgt. Rodney Lang, 114 CES, retired  
 November 1 with over 22 years of service.

Senior Master Sgt. James Kelley, 114 MXS,  
 retired November 21 with over 33 years of  
 service.

Lt. Col. Lori Menke, 114 MDG, retired  
 December 1 with over 20 years of service.

Lt. Col. Gregory Young, 175 FS, will retire  
 December 31 with over 22 years of service.

Senior Master Sgt. Johnny Dykstra, 114 MXS,  
 will retire December 31 with over 37 years of  
 service.

## Master Sgt. David M. Zerfas



David M. Zerfas, 43, of Brookings, passed away Friday, December 2, 2011.

David Michael Zerfas was born December 11, 1967 in Fort Carson, CO, the son of Stephen J. and Diann M. (Hanson) Zerfas. He attended school

in Sioux Falls in his grade school years and then moved to Wheatland, Wyoming during his junior high years. They then moved back to Sioux Fall during Dave's high school years, graduating from Washington High School in 1986.

Dave then enlisted the 114th Fighter Wing, of the South Dakota Air National Guard. He attended Basic Training in San Antonio, Texas and Technical School in Rantoul, Ill. He then enrolled in college at South Dakota State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management in 1993.

In 1996, Dave was hired on fulltime at the South Dakota Air National Guard. During his years at the unit he served one tour in Turkey and two tours in Iraq. Dave was dedicated to his job and his country, working for the Air National Guard for 16 years until his death.

Dave was active in coaching his children in all sports that they were involved with. He discovered his love for hockey and enjoyed traveling with his children to their hockey tournaments. He was active in the Brookings Hockey Association, where he served as, the president and vice president. He also served on several state hockey committees. Dave was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Dave had a love for the outdoors, from going camping with his family to hunting and fishing, anything that would allow him to spend more time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Stacey Zerfas of Brookings, SD; two sons, Ryen Zerfas and Austen Zerfas, and one daughter, Allysen Zerfas all of Brookings, SD; his parents, Steve and Diann Zerfas of Trent, SD.

## OUT WITH THE OLD . . .



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

*BDU fashionistas gathered for a photo on October 28, the last day to wear the uniform at Joe Foss Field, to show their support of the now obsolete BDU's.*

## IN WITH THE ABU

It's official. As of November 1st the Air Force Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) is obsolete.

For most of us, our BDU's were packed up years ago. But for those who considered themselves BDU fashionistas it was a sad day when they wore their BDU uniform for the last time on October 28th.

It's not that the new Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) is uncomfortable or that much different than the old BDU's, it's more than likely just nostalgia.

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